

the "Big House" lunch table over a full platter of Minnie's fried chicken, and he had a huge lunch everyday," Mr. Mason said, referring to Mr. McKethan's home in Brooksville.

Mr. McKethan was a citrus grower and made his mark in one of Florida's major industries by helping to found the Florida Citrus Commission and by serving as director of Florida Citrus Mutual. From 1949 to 1954, he served as chairman of the State Road Board on which he had considerable influence over the development of communities throughout the state. According to the *Hernando Times*, some notable examples of the big road projects that took place with his urging include the Sunshine Skyway Bridge in St. Petersburg, the expansion of State Road 50 from Orlando to the Gulf of Mexico through Hernando County and U.S. 98 from Lakeland to the southern border of Citrus County. Mr. Hjalma Johnson joked at his funeral—with a certain degree of seriousness—that Mr. McKethan had a particular threshold for approving road projects, "They must be potentially beneficial to every Floridian—and they must either originate, terminate or go through Brooksville." (St. Petersburg Times) He served as the first chairman of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's governing board created to address chronic flooding problems in the region. At his funeral, Dale Twachtman who was the first executive director of SWFWMD was quoted in the *Hernando Times* recalling the first days of the agency in Brooksville when its final location was still in question. "But I and the staff never doubted for a minute that he would figure out a way to keep (SWFWMD) in Brooksville, and he did," Twachtman said. Sonny Vergara, Executive Director of SWFWMD, described Mr. McKethan's foresight this way: "He knew water would be a central concern for the future of Florida," Vergara said. "He saw water management as a comprehensive view." (Hernando Today)

He was also a man devoted to his church and to education.

He headed up the committee that selected St. Petersburg as the site for Florida Presbyterian College, now known as Eckerd College and was a generous supporter of his alma mater, the University of Florida, which named its baseball stadium after him. He also established the first endowed chair at UF and several football scholarships. Florida Athletic Director Jeremy Foley told *Hernando Today*, "This is a sad day for everyone that knew Mr. McKethan. The University of Florida has lost a great friend, the state of Florida has lost a great person. No one loved the Gators more than Mr. McKethan."

His tremendous generosity will certainly have a lasting influence throughout Hernando County and the state, but particularly in Hernando County. According to former State Rep. Chuck Smith of Brooksville, "He was a person who above everything else believed Hernando County was the only place on earth." (Hernando Times) Through his efforts, he helped to bring about the Brooksville campus of Pasco-Hernando Community College, the Brooksville-Hernando County Airport, the West Hernando/Staffordene T. Foggia Library, Alfred McKethan Park at Pine Island and the Alfred McKethan Civic Auditorium at the Hernando County Fairgrounds.

Brooksville lawyer Bruce Snow told *The Hernando Times*, "He was willing to share his

wealth in ways that people weren't even aware of." Len Tria, a former Hernando County Commissioner, recalled a surprise commission meeting attended by Mr. McKethan after the County applied to his bank for a loan for a new library. He told the Commission that the bank would not secure the loan. Tria told *The Hernando Times*, "My heart dropped. Then, he reaches into his inside coat pocket and said, 'However, I have a check here for \$200,000 . . . We want you to build that library.'"

Reporter Lara Bradburn of *Hernando Today* describes the personality of this fine man known as "Mr. Hernando County" in vivid detail. She writes: "It wasn't so much his stature; the fact that he owned more assets than most anyone in the county, or that his name is plastered on various parks, buildings and institutions. It was more in his demeanor and the personal way he connected with those around him. He was charming, dapper and undeniably cunning in business. He was the man who dined with presidents and governors, blue-collar workers and poor country preachers. Titles meant little, unless they were the means to an end. He was the quintessential Southern gentleman, was just as comfortable with the rich as the poor: always cordial, always interesting, always ready with a good yarn from the old days."

Mr. Mason agrees: "Despite his exceptional business and financial successes, he was a very real person who was interested in the well being of everyone he came into contact with and was always eager to help whoever he could."

Because of his generous and kind spirit, Mr. McKethan's legacy will forever live on in the hearts and souls of his many admirers and through the residents of Hernando County far into the future who will continue to enjoy the many facilities that he made possible during his lifetime. He was, and will always be, loved and appreciated for all the good he represented and for the lives he changed for the better. Whenever we donate to the Boy Scouts of America or our local church, we should think of Mr. McKethan. Whenever we go out of our way to help a neighbor in need, we should remember Mr. McKethan. Whenever we mentor a young person or help an up-and-coming professional trying to make it in business, we should remember the great legacy of Alfred McKethan. He trained and mentored many leaders in his day and as Mr. Hjalma Johnson said with great emotion as he quoted Sir Isaac Newton at his funeral, "If I have seen farther, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants. All of us will see farther because we stood on the shoulders of this giant. Mr. Chairman, you will be well missed and never forgotten." (St. Petersburg Times)

I would also like to submit for the record the below quotes showing the great love and respect that Alfred McKethan earned during his remarkable life. He certainly left a lasting impression in Hernando County and throughout the State of Florida that will remain for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF CALLISTA YATES  
NANCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Callista Yates Nance on the occasion of her 90th Birthday.

Callista Yates was born and raised in Chadbourn, North Carolina. She was one of six children born to Willis and Gloria Yates. She had two sisters and three brothers. She attended the Johnson High School in Chadbourn. She married Willie Rufus Nance and together they had thirteen children. Callista was never overwhelmed by her large family. In fact, she opened the doors of her home to her children's friends and treated them as if they were her own children.

In addition to Callista's family obligations, she was also very active in her church and her community. She taught Sunday school for years and served as a deaconess in the church. She is loved throughout the community for her kindness and generosity. She is known as "ma" or "grandma" throughout the community. Others attribute her open door policy to one of her favorite sayings, "in God's eyesight we are all equal".

Sadly, her husband, Willie, died when he was only 60 years old, but Callista has never failed to persevere. She has always been known for her beautiful smile—a trait that she passed on to her luckiest children.

Mr. Speaker, Callista Yates Nance is a beacon in her community, in her church, and in her family. She has spread joy for her first 89 years and I expect she always will. As such I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman on the occasion of her 90th Birthday.

RECOGNIZING BRYAN F. SIEBENALLER ON HIS APPOINTMENT  
TO THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize my constituent, Bryan F. Siebenaller of Bascom, Ohio, who recently accepted his appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Bryan will soon graduate from Hopewell-Loudon High School. During his high school career, he has maintained a 3.9 grade point average, ranking high in his graduating class. He is an accomplished athlete, earning varsity letters in football, basketball and track. And he has clearly demonstrated his leadership ability, serving as President of the Student Council and as President of the National Honor Society.

Bryan Siebenaller can be very proud of his many accomplishments. He is a credit to his family, his school, and his community. By accepting his appointment, Bryan is accepting a unique challenge.

The Academy is the pinnacle of leadership development for the United States Army. As a member of the U.S. Corps of Cadets, he will